VRS in ITDC Hotels

2214. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is heavy rush for VRS in ITDC hotels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for hotel employees not favouring disinvestment process in ITDC?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The response to the VRS offered in 13 hotels proposed for disinvestment in Third and Fourth Tranche has been encouraging. Out of a total of 2519 (176 executives) employees, 1285 (99 executives) which constitute 51% have opted for VRS.

(c) The employees of ITDC hotels have accepted the disinvestment process and there has been a smooth transition so far.

Allocation of funds for tourist development in Tamil Nadu

2215. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for the development of tourist spots in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country during the last three years;

(b) whether any State Government has sought special financial assistance for the development of tourist spots in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Department of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned 967 projects amounting to Rs. 238 crore for the projects relating to development of tourist spots in the country during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 out of which 56 projects amounting to Rs. 11.88 crore sanctioned for the State of Tamil Nadu for development of tourist spots.

(b) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations every year for the tourism projects identified in consultation with them. State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested

to send project proposals for the new schemes i.e. Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits, and Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development for the year 2002-03.

(c) Does not arise.

Utilization of funds by States

†2216. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of assistance provided by Government to the States to raise the level of ground water level during the last three years and to what extent success has been achieved State-wise as a result thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain States have not taken any action in this regard even after getting the allotment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government have taken to ensure the full utilization of the allotment for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d). The Ministry of Water Resources do not have any scheme under which financial grant is provided to the State Governments to raise the level of ground water. However, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources had implemented demonstrative rain water harvesting and recharge projects in the country under its Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water on "pilot basis" during the IX Five Year Plan at a cost of Rs. 23.48 crore. Under this scheme, a total of number of 174 projects were approved for implementation in 27 States/Union Territories. The expenditure made on these recharge projects was Rs. 22.97 crore in last three years. These recharge projects have contributed to increase in the quantity of ground water with efficient use of runofff avoiding evaporation losses.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.